



DOMAINE LAFAGE

La Grande Cuvée Rosé

For twenty years, we have worked with Jean-Marc Lafage at his estate in the Roussillon and across the border in Spain, where he consults on several projects. As good as his wines were when we first met him, they only get better with each vintage.

While his family has been growing grapes and making wine in the Roussillon since 1791, it was Jean-Marc's early insight into the potential for the Roussillon to make a wide range of dry wines at very affordable prices that established his "new" estate. While his grandfather and father made wine for the family, Jean-Marc was the first to break away from selling most of his grapes to the local cooperative. Over the generations, his family had amassed scattered vineyards throughout the region, which now totals over 160 hectares of vines, most of them in excess of 50 years in age.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Côtes du Roussillon

SOIL

Red schist, alluvial gravel

AGE OF VINES

65-80

ELEVATION

140 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache Gris, Grenache Noir, Mourvèdre

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, light direct press, natural yeast fermentation in tank on the fine lees

AGING

4 months in tank (90%) and new 500L French oak demi-muids (10%)

Another factor in Jean-Marc's success is the diversity of the terroirs in the Roussillon. Squeezed between the far southern edge of the limestone Corbières Massif to the north and the granitic Pyrenees mountains in the south, the Roussillon is an undulating terrain of complex soil types, orientations, and exposures. Three river valleys, the Agly, Têt, and Tech, drain the region generally flowing west to east, where they meet the Mediterranean. Within its borders, Jean-Marc has identified six principal sub-zones in the appellation: the Crest, the Upper Agly Valley, the Uplands of Fenouillet, Les Asprès, the Mediterranean Plain, the Rocky Coast. Each region has its own expression and when you factor in the various varieties Jean-Marc has planted, you can understand why he can make so many riveting wines at such reasonable prices.

La Grande Cuvée Rosé is a selection of old vine Grenache Gris and Grenache Noir (70%) and Mourvèdre (30%) planted on the red schist soils of Les Asprès. At harvest, it is selected and picked by hand and carefully sorted at the cellar to ensure that only the ripest and healthiest fruit is used. Its pale hue coming entirely from the color of the free-run juice, this rosé is fermented by indigenous yeasts and aged in tank with a small portion aged in new 500L French oak demi-muids. While the color is a delicate pink, this wine comes from a warm terroir which is reflected in the richness and weight of its red berry flavors.

ACCOLADES

92 – 2018 La Grande Cuvée Rosé – Jeb Dunnuck

92 – 2017 La Grande Cuvée Rosé – Jeb Dunnuck

91 – 2016 La Grande Cuvée Rosé – Wine Advocate